



St Charles' RC Primary School

24 March 2017

Together we follow Jesus' footsteps in our living and learning

This week's statement to live by was: "I know that it is OK for me to make mistakes"

Dear Families

This has turned out to be a very busy and successful term. Thank you to everyone who supported the Science Fair last week. We raised £110 for the school library in our collection on the door on Friday 17th. The PTA have donated £1000 to the library and with other generous donations and fundraising events the total raised for the library so far is £2700 Thank you for your continued support with this.

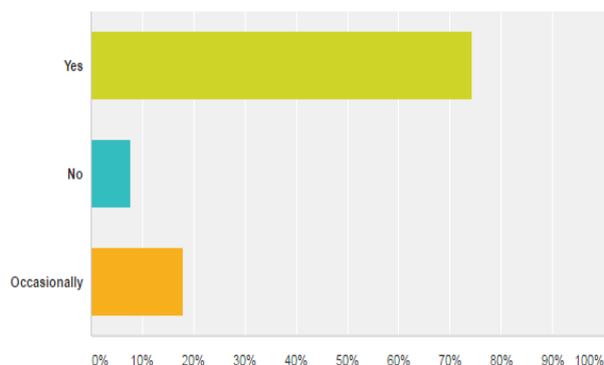
Science Week

Well what a week we had in St Charles' camp! The atmosphere in school last week was electric and I would like to thank all of the children and staff for their hard work and sportsmanship. It was a brilliant week with lots of engaging, fun and challenging activities for all of the children. We are already thinking about next year!

A science survey was made available for parents to complete so that we can look at how to improve this across the school. Thank you for all those who completed it. Below are some responses we received:

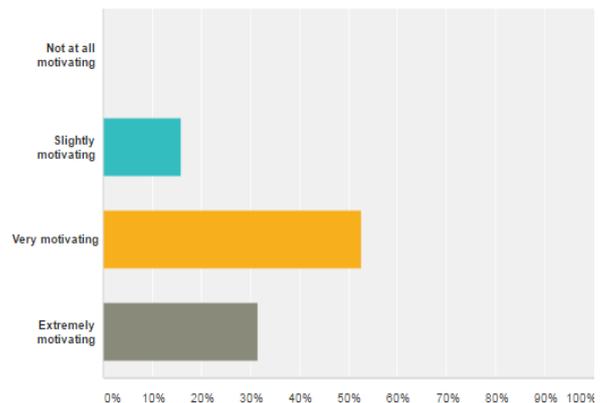
Does your child talk enthusiastically about science when they come home?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



How motivating do you think the science provision is in our school?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 0



My children loved science week. So much planned by and thought had gone into making it fun for every child. 3/17/2017 8:02 PM View respondent's answers
As last year stem week has been very popular and exciting! 3/17/2017 6:22 PM View respondent's answers
Thoroughly enjoyed the parents being invited today. The staffs enthusiasm and commitment to the children is second to none! 3/17/2017 5:54 PM View respondent's answers
A brief overview of what is going to be taught would be helpful so that I could support learning at home before and during the unit. 3/17/2017 5:36 PM View respondent's answers
Stem week was fantastic but I get the impression that it is quite different to the usual science provision within the usual week 3/17/2017 5:15 PM View respondent's answers
Experiments done in class 3/18/2017 1:59 PM View respondent's answers
What they've done in class & what they've learned (yr 5). My daughter in yr2 is v enthusiastic about hands-on experiments & outside learning. 3/18/2017 12:15 PM View respondent's answers
They discuss their lessons and what they have learned that day. They enjoy describing experiments and any practical work they have done. 3/17/2017 8:02 PM View respondent's answers

Lent Reflections

Thank you to the families who have joined us over the last few weeks. Please come along and join us, even if only for a few minutes before school on a Wednesday for some quiet time. It would be lovely to see you there.



We are also starting 40Acts Lent challenges with the children today and the Mini Vinnies will be responsible for selecting the daily challenge for the class. If you would like to take up this challenge yourself this Lent please follow the link below:

<https://40acts.org.uk/> Twitter hashtag: #40acts

The Big Pedal 20 - 31 March 2017



Time for *another* challenge and this time it is The Big Pedal! Please try and walk, scoot or bike to school - adults and teachers too! The children will be keeping totals in their classes so please try and make an extra effort during Lent. Every journey by bicycle or scooter pushes us up in the National rankings for the challenge.

Living Eggs

We are very pleased to have some new visitors in school this week. Children are watching eggs hatch and are following the first days' growth of the chicks. This ties in with the early Years' Cornerstones topics when the children learn about the lifecycle of a hen and how to take care of a baby chick. They are a big hit and the first chick was named Brian by the Nursery children.



Nursery Stay and Play

Parents are invited in to stay and play with their children next week, and experience the Nursery setting together.

If you have not already confirmed the Stay and Play time that you have been allocated, please speak with Miss Pattison as soon as possible. The sessions are Tuesday 28th 9am-10am and 2.15pm-3.15pm; Wednesday 29th 9am-10am only; Thursday 30th and Friday 31st 9am-10am and 2.15pm-3.15pm

Attendance

Your child will be counted as a persistent absentee if their attendance drops below 90%. Currently, we have 22 children identified in this category across school (Reception to Year 6). Please help us reach our 98% attendance target this year. We ensure teaching and learning at St Charles' continues to be fun and engaging to encourage your child to come to school everyday. Please continue to support us to try and achieve excellent attendance for all our children. Thank you.

Staff CPD

This term Mrs Clasper and Mr Smith have attended Read Write Inc training; Mrs Bickle and myself have attended training modules towards the Catholic Certificate in Education, and Mrs Walsham has now been trained as our mental health champion.

All teaching staff have attended moderation of your child's mathematics work with all of the other Catholic schools in Newcastle. This has been really successful and this new initiative that we have organised will further strengthen working relationships within the Newcastle Catholic Primary School Cluster.

Progress updates

Twice per year you have the opportunity to speak to the class teacher during parents evenings, view your child's books and you are provided with a short progress report at the end of the Autumn and Spring Term, followed by an end of year report in the Summer Term. If you have any suggestions on how we can continue to keep you further informed about your child's progress in the core subjects: RE, English, Science and Mathematics, please come and join our Parent Focus Group this term. If at any point in the year you do have concerns, your child's class teacher will be more than happy to speak to you at a mutually convenient time.

Parent Focus Group

All are welcome to join this working group. The next meeting is on Thursday 30th March at 2.30pm to discuss among other things, the school website, RE and progress updates (see above). The meeting will finish by 3.15pm for school pick up time. If you would like to come along, please advise Mrs Siou in the school office.

RSC

A cluster of Newcastle schools have been working with Kim Sykes from the Royal Shakespeare Company Education Department towards a production of Julius Caesar. Five schools will produce the five acts, and their hard work will culminate in performances next week on 31st March at Sacred Heart High School in Fenham.

Running Club

Running club continues every Thursday at lunchtime for Key Stage 2. Our aim each week is to run 1 mile around the school field, then play extra running games.

We want to encourage as many children as possible to do this. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and would like to attend they should bring their running kit and outdoor trainers every Thursday.

Minnie Vinnies Update

'As Lent is a very important time, the Mini Vinnies are setting up prayer stations outside, so that at playtimes and lunchtimes children can come to pray and reflect during this special time.'

Amelia, Mini Vinnies President



Sport

The boys' Under 11 football team are competing in the Catholic Schools Knockout Cup and are currently awaiting their semi-final fixture to be played. They have displayed some great grit and determination in this competition and none more so than when they came back from being a goal down to defeat St Albans RC Primary 2-1 after extra time. The boys' Under 9 football team did brilliantly to reach the finals night of the FA U9 cup but were unable to progress to the regional finals.

This half term we have competed in the inaugural Catholic Schools Tag Rugby Competition and went on to win the competition outright. It was fantastic to see some of the boys getting the opportunity to represent the school for the first time and they did so with great maturity.





Year 3 pupils took part in the Newcastle dance festival held at Newcastle City Hall on Thursday 16th March. The boys and girls in the class worked really hard over six weeks to learn their dance routine with the help of Mrs Brady and Steph from the Newcastle School Sport Service. They did a marvellous job and the parents were extremely proud of the end result.

World Kidney Day

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our fundraising for this worthwhile cause. An amazing £829 was raised.

The statement to live by for next week will be: “I can learn from my mistakes and failures”.

Have a lovely weekend (I hope all you mothers are spoiled rotten).

Mrs Nealings

Head Teacher

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